

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

SCHINDLER'S LIST



File photo shows papers from the estate of German industrialist Oskar Schindler, who saved almost Jewish forced labourers from concentration camps during Germany's Nazi era. A list of Jews saved by Schindler that inspired the novel and Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List" has been found in a Sydney library, its co-curator said.


See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

FAME FLIGHT



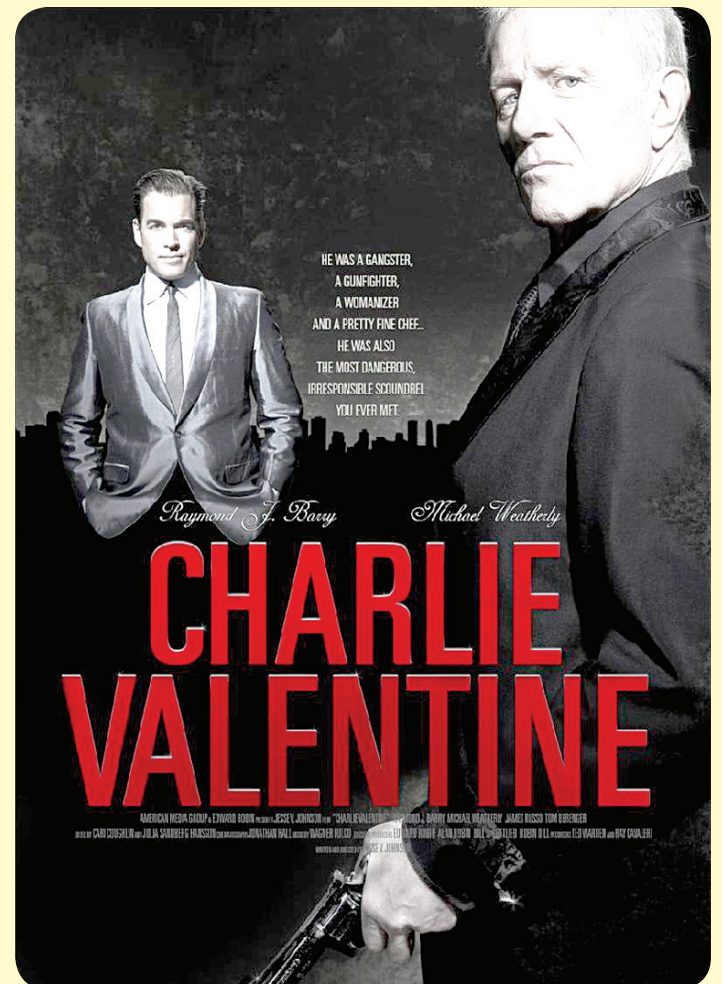
In this Feb. 6, 1988 file photo, Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls dunks during the slam-dunk competition of the NBA All-Star weekend in Chicago, Ill. Jordan along with John Stockton, David Robinson, Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer were all elected to the class of 2009 Basketball Hall of Fame on Monday, April 6, 2009. See **Sports Today**



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 51.05

Aruban Songwriter Thannee hits NYC Red Carpet



ORANESTAD – Aruba Today had the unique opportunity for an exclusive interview the Songwriter/Audio Engineer/Music Producer Thannee Hassle.

She explains, "During Songwriting, I do everything from composing a melody to coming up with a story and writing the lyrics. As an Audio Engineer it is my duty to capture and compile sound files, starting anywhere from the inception of a mood for a song to the technical aspect of recording an instrument in its most distinguished and accurate (purest) form. The Music Producer in me then decides which audio files to keep and how to shape them to collectively form the final sound experience desired for the listener."

How do you do so many jobs at once?

"In a many ways the things I do tend to overlap each other. When you are developing any artistic product, I believe that technical issues should minimally interfere with or obstruct the artistic integrity of the work being produced. Taking on all these technical jobs simultaneously therefore became a necessity of mine to be able to work as free of boundaries as possible and to maximize my options and abilities as a producer. I felt that I had to formally learn sound engineering to be able to work with accuracy, flexibility and precision."

Did you have to attend special schooling for this?

Continued on page 9

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Christina & Jonathon exchange vows & rings at sunset



PALM BEACH - Christina Morico and Jonathan Strong were married at the Radisson Aruba Resort and Casino last Saturday evening as the

sun set into the Caribbean Sea. Rev. Jacobs officiated the ceremony of vows and exchange of rings in front of two dozen witnesses of

family and friends who traveled from the USA. After the sunset ceremony, sand ceremony and cake cutting exchange, the newlyweds and their guests enjoyed a fabulous reception and poolside dinner on the deck at the Radisson Resort. The wedding was coordinated by Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations on Aruba and professional photography by Bella Aruba Photography.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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A rich and creamy soup finished with Cognac

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Seafood Pasta" Moby Dick"

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Shrimp a 'la Provencal

Caribbean jumbo shrimp, garlic, tomatoes and fresh herbs

Banana Banana

Caramelized bananas, banana ice cream, chocolate sauce

For reservations please call (297) **586-8333** / Open 11:30am—11:00pm / Paseo Herencia Shopping, Palm Beach, Aruba

Westin Resort receives CATA's Star award



PALM BEACH -- During the recent CATA convention-the annual tourism conference of Aruba for the Latin American market-Westin Sales Manager Diego Garcia was proud to receive the Star award for Westin's unprecedented service to the groups and conventions market from the South and Central American regions. Diego and the entire Sales and Convention Services team were acknowledged for their flawless execution of large and small events for groups and impeccable island hospitality that continues to set the standard for Aruba's groups and conventions market. Diego is pictured here with Westin's Sales and Convention Services executives. The unique Star award was designed by local artist Maritsa Erasmus.



*Former International School of
Aruba Student*

Graciela Nolen wins USACFC – National Champion

Graciela Nolen, nineteen year old daughter of Jeffrey Nolen and Granddaughter of Mary John Nolen and the late James M. Nolen is the new USACFC National Champion in Women's Saber Fencing. Competing as a College Freshman this past weekend in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin at the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Club's National Championship as part of the Arizona State University Team and Individual Events. This adds to her other accomplishments such as a recent Bronze Medal in the North American Cup, 7 consecutive years as US Junior Olympic Qualifier and 3 time US National Qualifier. Additionally,



her International accomplishments include a Silver and 2 Bronze medals for Foil in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia National Championships. 3 time Champion in Aruba. North Carolina Champion at age of 16. A lot of training and dedication over the past 7 years have went



into achieving this goal. Starting in North Carolina at the age of 12 then training in Armenia with a former Soviet coach in a gym that during the winter was unheated in the below zero weather. She currently trains in Tempe, Arizona with the Arizona State University Team where she is a freshman majoring in Political Science.

Aruba Home Minders create local partnership



ORANJESTAD - Proprietors Judy Lembo and Jacqui Candemir; both from the USA, teamed up with a local partner to create Aruba Home Minders NV. The most complete Property Management, Home Minding, and Concierge Service Company on Aruba.

Each having over 20 years of experience in customer service, real estate, and travel related industries felt they could bring a unique and unequaled level of personal service for the growing second home and condo market on the island. When asked why they started a business in Aruba they replied:

“We both love the island and

owning property here, it was evident there was a need that was not being met.

The goal was to give Second home owners a sense of security while away from the island and the opportunity to enjoy their vacation home while here”. Hence our slogan “Your Peace of Mind in Paradise” was coined.

There are many fantastic real estate agencies in Aruba; whom we have formed relationships with, to assist with the purchase of a home, but no company was focusing on the client’s post purchase needs, that’s where Aruba Home Minders came in.....

Whether you’re looking to stay at a sprawling home or cozy condo, Aruba Home Minders has accommodations for all tastes and budgets. They offer property management along with simple home minding and an expansive list of concierge services. As the slogan states: Aruba Home Minders.....”Your Peace of Mind in Paradise”

Enjoy the Best Easter Brunch ever



In the Grand Caribbean Ballroom

On April 12, 2009
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

\$36.50
pre-sale
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\$42.00
at the door
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& Mariachi Perla di Aruba
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Breakfast Station

Resort Baked Breakfast Breads and Pastries to include:
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Display of Smoked Salmon • Bagels and Cream Cheese
Sliced Fresh Fruits • French Toast with Maple Syrup & Strawberry
Sauce • Fluffy Scrambled Eggs • Crisp Bacon & Link Sausages
Caribbean Breakfast Potatoes.

Omelet Station

Omelets prepared to order with Variety of Fillings • Soup Station
Sopi di Carni

Salads

Mix Green Salad • Red Beet Mint Feta Salad • Potato Egg Salad
Antipasto Salad • Crunch Chicken Salad with Mushrooms
Spicy Sesame Dressing and Peanuts • Seafood Station • Aruban
Ceviche with Shrimp, Scallops • Local Fish, Cilantro and Lime
Display of Peel and Eat Shrimp • Mussels with Cocktail Sauce
and Lemon Wedges.

Carving Station

Glazed ham with Tropical Salsa • Roast Beef with Horseradish
Pesto Cream.

Gourmet Entrees

Keshi Yena • Red Snapper with Creole Sauce, Chimichuri Fried
Plantains • Creamy Cheese Tortellini with Asparagus and Sundried
Tomatoes in creamy Pesto Sauce • Scalloped Yukon Gold and
Sweet Potato Gratin • Fresh Mixed Vegetables • Arroz Morro

Desserts

Freshly Baked Assortment of Cakes, Pastries, Flan, Quesillo
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Kids Station

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Staten Islanders love to dine at Tango Restaurant



PALM BEACH – "This is our 4th visit to Aruba. We ate at Tango restaurant 2 years ago and decided to visit it again. We remembered having such a great steak last time and truly enjoyed it again. We had a party of six and every one of us ordered a different steak. They tasted equally delicious. Besides the waiter was such a gentleman. Thank you for a wonderful dinner and we will definitely see you next April." Regards, Eileen Cassel, Staten Island New York.

Crystal & Seaport Casinos

Happy Easter

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Play with "the Card" on our Slot Machines and receive one (1) coupon for every ten (10) points redeemed. For tables games, client will receive one (1) coupon for every combination depending on the game as follows:

Mini Baccarat: *Any tie*

Black Jack : *Any three 7 or Black jack*

Roulette: *Straight on date & doubles*

Caribbean Stud Poker: *Any bonus on the progressive*

Three Card Poker: *Bonus on the Ante.*

Seaport Casino

is giving away

Afl 5.000

DRAWING TAKES PLACE:
Tuesday, April 14th 2009
at Seaport Casino

Crystal Casino

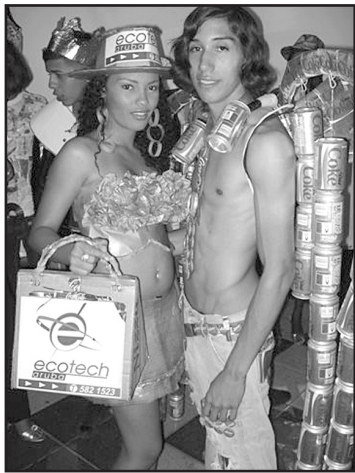
is giving away

Afl 10.000

DRAWING TAKES PLACE:
Wednesday, April 15th 2009
at Crystal Casino

Winners have to be present with a valid ID to claim their prizes, Coupons received at each casino are valid only at the respective casino. Points are not redeemable!

Aruba Model Search Tremendous Recycling Contest



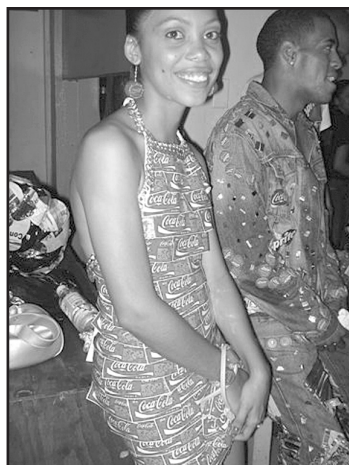
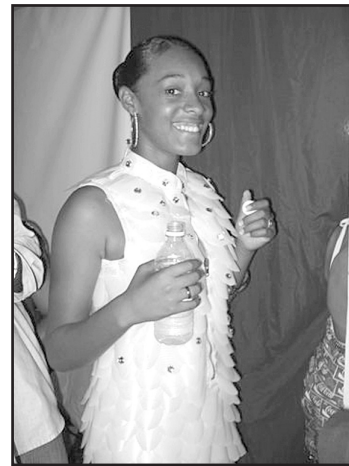
removal and recycling company. All AMS participants were asked to come up with a costume made of 100% recycled materials. They were also required



ORANJESTAD – A most creative contest took place this weekend as part of AMS, the Aruba Model Search, in its current 2009 edition. The event was sponsored by ECOTEC, the local trash

to show their creation on the runway, in full view of a live audience and a panel of judges, and accompany it with a pro-recycling slogan. The show took place at Tequila,

downtown Oranjestad and yielded a bonanza of amazingly interesting looks. The kids participating in the contest showed great gifts of creativity from angels,



to brides, to ballerinas and gladiators, all costumes were made out of trash.

To watch the ARUBA MODEL SEARCH 2009,

You've Got The Look Contest, turn on TeleAruba Channel 13, Wednesday, April 8th, at 9 p.m., for a dramatic episode #3.

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Controversial Dutch rightist party to contest European elections

AMSTERDAM - The controversial Dutch Freedom Party PVV formally announced Monday it would participate in the European Parliament elections scheduled for June 4. The Freedom Party PVV said one of its current legislators, Barry Madlener, would lead the party list.

The liberal-rightist Freedom Party, established by Geert Wilders after he was ejected from the Liberal VVD party in September 2004, is known for its strong criticism on Islam, Dutch migrant policy and Euro-skepticism.

On January 21, an Amsterdam court ordered the public prosecutor Wilders should be prosecuted for alleged offensive and discriminatory remarks he made about the Islam and

migrants. Wilders has on several occasions referred to Islam as a "backward culture" and the Koran as a "fascist book".

He also warned of the spread of radical Islam and the alleged "Islamization" of the Netherlands in Fitna, a 16-minute political film released on the internet on March 27, 2008.

Speaking to the Dutch daily

newspaper Volkskrant, Madlener said his party opposes what it calls far-reaching influence from Brussels on national politics.

Madlener said "Europe should not become a super state, but limit itself to economic cooperation. The 2005 referendum about a European constitution also demonstrated that this is what the people want."

In 2005, a 54.9 majority of Dutch nationals voted against a European constitution.

Madlener said the PVV would prefer the European Parliament ultimately to be abolished.

"The European Union should only have an economic function. Legislation and law enforcement belongs to the national arena."

The Freedom Party is also very

critical of the EU's financial system. The Dutch are financing road building in Portugal and Poland while traffic problems increase in the Netherlands. We want our money back," Madlener said. The PVV has not yet decided whether it will seek cooperation with liberal-rightist parties from other countries such as Belgian Vlaams Belang.

Dutch airline upgrades its fleet

Touted to be one of the most fuel efficient Boeing aircraft, the Business and Economy class seats on KLM's range of 'triple-7s' will feature state-of-the-art amenities including audio and video on demand, language courses, audio books, video games, short messaging services (SMS) and email.

Air France KLM country manager Estee Ng said the company had two types of new Boeing - the 777-300ER with extended range and the 777-200ER.

"This fleet modernisation programme comes as the airline celebrates its 90th anniversary," she told a press conference before welcoming the inaugural arrival of the Amsterdam - Kuala Lumpur flight at the main KL International Airport (KLIA) recently.

Air France KLM is a result of a 2005 merge between Dutch company KLM and Air France, which resulted in creating the world's largest airline group by turnover.

Ng said the new 777-300ER was capable of carrying 425 passengers over 14,685km while the 777-200ER could carry 327 passengers.

"With the 777 fleet, we are increasing the capacity between Europe and Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta despite the current economic gloom, while providing our passengers with even more value for their money," she said.



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This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be
purchased at any other vendor than the Box Office of the Renaissance Aruba
Resort & Casino.



Fishes and More Delivers the freshest every day

Why settle for any less

PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. It is said once you taste their fishes, you will come back for more.

Owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink work exceptionally hard to ensure the restaurant is at its best for everyone to enjoy. The courteous

and friendly staff will pamper you from 4 pm till 10.30pm, every day of the week.

Come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps.

Fishes and More is for everyone. For those who like to try something different, for those who can't shake the seafood addiction, for those who want to eat a great piece of veal, or pasta, everyone is more than welcome.

Arawak Gardens is right across from the hotels. We invite you to take a little walk to a grand dinner!



For more information or reservations call 586-3659



More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary,

oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a

at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your din-

owned eatery. Victor Natif and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting

ning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family



Casa Tua Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm.

Casa Tua Downtown
open from 11am to 11pm,
Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations please call below or ask your

concierge
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695



Continued from front page

“Of course, not only did I study at Berklee College of Music in Boston, but I also acquired a diploma from SAE Institute of Technology for Audio Engineering.”

How did you first get started in this field?

“Um, being born with an engineer mind, I guess. Growing up I always tended to seek out patterns for fun, or taking things apart to rebuild them or modify and fixing things to pass time. In many ways dealing with audio files, it’s much of the same. You record sounds waves apart, chip and shape them in individual pieces, which then need to be able to fit back into the puzzle to equate to the final desired sound.”

What’s the name of the World Premiere Screening you were invited to and what is the movie’s storyline?

“The title is Charlie Valentine. It is a film about a charming coldhearted slick gangster who finds himself on the run. In the process he develops a relationship with his son and is soon forced to face the consequences. The part of the son is performed by Michael Weatherly, who is known from the TV series NCIS for CBS.”

What was your involvement in Charlie Valentine?

“I was lucky enough to get my original music placed in the film via my own publishing company, T Nuff Music. I also mixed a few songs of the score music and assisted in editing additional audio tracks of the movie.” Can you explain what that means?

“When you get you song placed in a movie, it means that the director and producers have selected an original song of yours to use in their film as music being played thru for example, a radio or a TV which the actors in the movie can hear as well. One of my songs was picked and I intern released the rights of via my publishing company T Nuff Music Publishing for use in



Charlie Valentine.

Then there is the sound score, which is background music developed specifically to enhancing the audience/viewer emotional experience. Typically this is like strings in a sad scene so you as the audience feel that you are living the experience, however the actors wouldn’t literally hear this in real life. In the score of Charlie Valentine I mixed a few tracks throughout the movie.

During the production of Charlie Valentine, I was an in house engineer so I worked on some tracks of the Foley sound effects. These are replication of everyday sounds, which occur as a body moves throughout a room, which are recorded after the movie has been shot and edited. For example, the sound of a drinking glass touching the table or the sound your shoes make as you walk in a room.”

How did it feel to be part of a Hollywood movie project?

“The premiere was a lot a fun. The director, Jesse Johnson was a pleasure to work with and I was honored to be a part of this Hollywood film. I was so excited to hear the mix of all the hard work come together through the massive rays of in house main speakers in the movie

theatre. It was also a big thrill to see my name scroll up during the end credits.”



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CELEBRATE EASTER AT THE HYATT REGENCY ARUBA RESORT & CASINO

APRIL 12TH, 2009, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Easter Sunday was made for brunch at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino.

Come and enjoy an **Easter Feast** for the entire family at Ruinas del Mar and a chance to **win fantastic prizes**. Our Easter Sunday brunch buffet adorned with scrumptious dishes will delight everyone’s taste buds. Your choices will be endless from an extensive salad and appetizer bar, to our ‘have it your way’ omelet stations. Other stations include New York herb rubbed strip loin, citrus glazed salmon or roasted rosemary leg of lamb carving station or our home made pizza and pasta corner. Young and old will also love our freshly made donuts ready for easter decorating and much more.

Celebrate your Easter Sunday in Authentic Island Chic Style!

Feel the Hyatt Touch. For Reservations call 586 1234 ext. 36.

Easter Brunch prices valid April 12th, 2009 at Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino. Reservations are recommended by calling 586 1234 ext. 36 for Ruinas del Mar. Easter Sunday Brunch available from 09:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m.; Brunch prices are \$49.50 per person, \$24.75 for children 9 to 12, \$12.40 for children 5 to 8 and free for children 4 and under. Price includes all you can eat buffet as well as sparkling wine, Mimosas, sparkling apple cider, coffees and tea and orange juice. Price does not include 15% service charge or local tax; other alcoholic beverages at Ruinas. Other restrictions may apply, call for details. Hyatt reserves the right to alter or withdraw this program at any time without notice. HYATT, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® and Hyatt Regency® names, designs and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation. ©2008 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn, a Boston native and longtime Aruba

resident, and you are invited to discover extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house ambiance in the lobby of the

Marriott Ocean Club. Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed

photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace

any home.

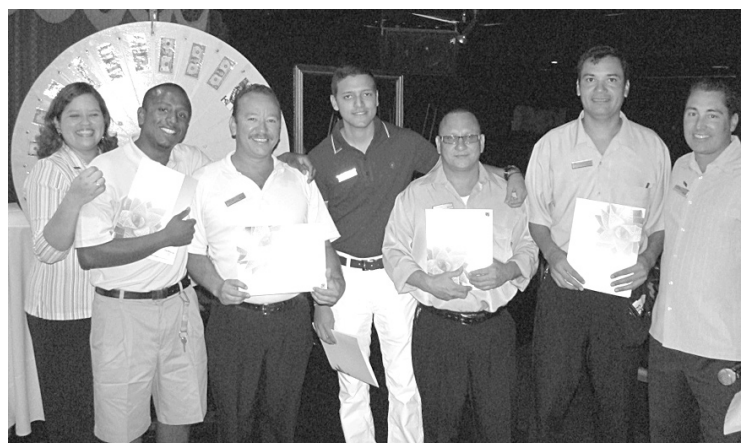
The store also stocks a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself!

Popular with repeat visitors and locals, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is available, for larger pieces, offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee.

The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays until 7 p.m. Email: orders@salamanderholding.com

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Legend/Brand Champion of the Month for January and February. The Service Legend of the Month/Brand Champion nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values, including providing personal

the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations.

During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following associates were named the winners from a group of exemplary nominees: For January, the Front of the House winner was Rufino Ras from Banqueting and Catering who works with amazing proficiency and is a master at anticipating guests needs; the Heart of the House winner was Victor Olivares from Housekeeping, who is always a top performer and acknowledged for going the extra mile during high occupancy times in January—sometimes working the night shift alone. For February, the Front of the House winner was Zariena Wilson, from the Concierge department, who is known for her attention to detail when helping guests plan their vacation itineraries; Heart of the House winner was Luigi Kelkboom, whose organizational skills and spirit of cooperation keep everything running smooth in the Food & Beverage Storeroom. Congratulations to all the winners and their fellow nominees.

PALM BEACH – Last week, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in honor of the nominees for Service

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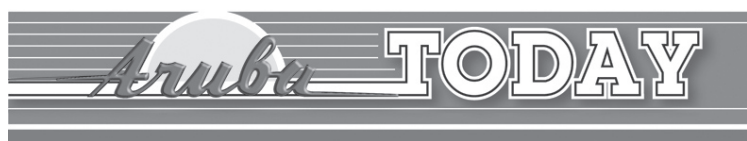
Appetizer: Mustard soup or fish soup or tomato soup

Middle course: Kebab pincho served with tzatziki

Main course: Fish stew or Tenderloin pincho on spicy vegetables or Mexican chicken platter

Dessert: Brownie with ice cream or fruit sorbet with ice cream

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"The EPA mandate to reduce harmful carbon dioxide was controversial. . . but you get used to it after awhile."

North Korea's challenge for Obama

North Korea spent about \$30 million to launch a rocket across the Pacific April 4 – but it still needs foreign aid to prevent a mass famine.

In 2006, it tested an atomic weapon – but its people still must scrounge for coal each winter to keep warm.

It regularly puts on massive public performances in stadiums – but thousands of hungry or desperate North Koreans flee to China each year.

Can such a regime survive for long?

China hopes so, and in fact still provides food and fuel to prop up the iron-fisted (and ham-handed) rule of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il. Beijing does not want to see a unified Korea – with the possibility of US troops on its border. Only once, in 2006, did China cut off aid – briefly – in protest over North Korea's weapon advances that upset stability in Asia.

South Korea, too, remains wary of the North Korean regime collapsing soon. Since the mid-1990s, when it estimated the cost of absorbing the North's 23 million poor to be too high for its own economy, Seoul has zig-zagged between acting tough and boosting the North's economy, mainly with food aid.

Because of these stances by China and South Korea, the Obama administration has difficult choices in how to respond to North Korea's latest provocation, especially now that North Korea is within reach of being able to launch an atomic weapon toward US territory. The US must cater to the interests of South Korea, which is an official ally and the main target of North Korea's military. And it must rely on China, which the US wants to treat as an ally and which, as North Korea's only ally, keeps the door open for US talks with Mr. Kim.

Given Kim's recent health problems and his continuing inability to adequately feed about 40 percent of his people, China may be especially wary now of destabilizing the regime with tougher sanctions.

South Korea, however, which recently elected a conservative government, could decide that this latest missile launch is too much of a threat to the world and itself. It might risk applying more pressure on the North by becoming a member of the 74-nation Proliferation Security Initiative.

The PSI was set up by the US in 2003 to prevent North Korea from shipping or gaining weapons and missiles by intercepting ships suspected of carrying such materials. If South Korea's Navy now starts to stop ships from the North, any one incident could escalate into a conflict that may lead to full-scale war.

North Korea could be on verge of instability anyway under Kim. The military was probably running the country during his recent incapacitation. None of his sons appear ready to rule. Should the US and South Korea now apply pressure for regime change? Should they wait until it happens on its own?

The West should focus on North Africa

Washington – For North Africa, 2009 is a year of elections. Regrettably, these elections – this week's presidential elections in Algeria, Tunisia's presidential and legislative elections in October, and Morocco's local council elections in June – attest not to the vibrancy of democracy in the region, but rather to its lingering authoritarianism.

Although Washington has found solid counter terrorism partners in North Africa, a short-term focus on security is potentially harmful. These countries face myriad challenges which necessitate a broad, long-term focus on reform. Doing so will serve not only the people of North Africa, but also the strategic interests of the US and its allies.

This week, Algeria's president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, will compete for a third term in office. Unlike in 2004, Mr. Bouteflika will run virtually uncontested. The opposition is boycotting because, according to two-time presidential contender Said Saadi, the elections are a "nihilistic folly." Indeed, Bouteflika is only able to run because he engineered a constitutional amendment abolishing term limits. Of course, for Algerians, these elections are just a formality. As Algerians know, elections are predetermined not by the people, but by "le pouvoir" – the power of the shadowy tripartite of the army, the intelligence services, and Bouteflika's clan.

Algeria's political stagnation is combined with high unemployment rates, a burgeoning population of young people, rises in the cost of living, and rampant corruption. This has contributed to a volatile cocktail of instability and fomented resentment among the younger sectors of the population. A bitter frustration with the system has resulted in mass illegal immigration to Europe, increasing clashes between rioters and government forces, and the presence of local jihadis linked to Al Qaeda, namely Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Disturbingly, the Algerian experience appears to be echoing across North Africa.

In Tunisia, where elections are slated for the fall, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's political style remains highly authoritarian. The US State Department 2008 Human Rights Report, for example, expressed dismay at the "severe restrictions on freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and association" reflected in Mr. Ben Ali's approval ratings.

Even in Morocco, where King Mohammad VI has some popular legitimacy, record lows in voter turnouts in 2007 suggest increased apathy and disillusionment with the voting process.

Both Tunisia and Morocco have been the target of jihadi attacks in recent years. Although Tunisia performs well economically, there are indications of an increasingly conducive environment for recruitment into AQIM – which has been trying to develop a presence across North Africa. Indeed, US National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair recently noted that AQIM "represents a significant threat to US and Western interests."

The explosive combination of political repression and a dearth of economic opportunity has fueled fears of long-term instability in North Africa. These concerns are exacerbated by an aging leadership and uncertain succession mechanisms. While the departure of Ben Ali and Bouteflika may not be imminent, in the absence of legitimate institutions, successors will enter their offices with even less credibility and historical legitimacy, potentially fueling further disaffection.

This may prove to be a problem for the US, which has serious business interests in the Maghreb. Although the US created a country assistance strategy plan for Morocco which focuses on "mitigating drivers of youth disaffection" and will bestow \$110 million on the country in 2009, it lacks such a long-sighted approach with Algeria and Tunisia. In those two countries, despite the Bush administration's "democracy agenda," little real benefit or US commitment to reform has been perceived.

In these countries, the US must take concrete measures to promote human rights and reform. In conjunction with European partners, a far more detailed and extensive program of scholarships, technical expertise assistance, civic education, English language programs, and other development programs should be offered to Tunisia and Algeria. Such efforts must be teamed with further impetus on economic regional cooperation and forward movement on the Western Sahara conflict.

It is now time for a policy that takes into account the region's stability issues and makes all of North Africa into a development partner, rather than a potential time bomb, and ensures that having an election season actually means something.

Dana Moss is the Next Generation fellow at The Washington Institute, and focuses on Libya and North Africa.

Bees Brains Morph to Avoid Mid-Life Crisis

A person changing jobs at mid-life might wish for a redesigned brain up to the fresh task. Honeybees go through just such a metamorphosis, a new study finds.

The research adds to an impressive list of bee qualities, including the recent discovery that bees can count.

Female worker bees begin adult life working in the hive, doing such things as taking care of the baby bees. By around 2-3 weeks of age, however - roughly equivalent to middle age in human years -they make a major career change, switching to foraging for nectar and pollen. (The queen, meanwhile, lounges around and mates with up to 20 males.)

Anyway, foraging requires new skills. A middle-age bee must now navigate to and from feeding sites and communicate the location of food to other bees (sometimes with a fantastic waggle). And she becomes a frequent flier, racking up hundreds of miles in the remainder of her short life. Researchers from Brazil and Cuba analyzed hundreds of bee brains,



A honey bee collects pollen, also seen deposited on hind leg as yellow mass, from a flower in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, March 10, 2009. 'Holi', the Indian Spring festival of colors will be celebrated on March 11.

(AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)

comparing proteins produced at the direction of genes in nurses vs. foragers. The brains of nurse bees have higher levels of proteins involved in caste determination in the complex society of these insects. The brains of experienced foragers, on the other hand, have more proteins linked to other vital activities, such as energy production. Their proteomes (the

set of proteins expressed by their genes) are quite different, the scientists conclude.

"Our study demonstrated clear brain proteome differences between honey bee nurse and forager subcastes with distinct social roles," the researchers write in the Journal of Proteome Research, a publication of the American Chemical Society



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Boroncana 230



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San Fuego 17-A



This new 2 storey A/C house is built on 815m² property land and is almost finished. It has nice green views. Living room, kitchen, stairs, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, balcony. With separate 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment (needs fixing).

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Opal 51



Beautiful rustic property. This 2 bedroom and 2 bathroom house has a large covered porch, front and back gate entrance, and comes with a separate apartment, outdoor jacuzzi, palapa and carport. Build on 507 m² of land. Constructed approx. 195 m²

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Tanki Leendert 132-B



Spacious property in Tanki Leendert on **2.644 m²** of property land. Fully landscaped and fenced. With 10 car parking, large wrap-around porch, big rocks, fruit trees, and approved building permits to build 6 apartments.

US\$ 392.655

Sabana Liber 28



This beautiful 3-bedroom house is located in North. Offered is a luxury and unique property with a part being an original local Cunucu house (552 m²) on property land (6.620 m²) plus 4 separate apartments (380 m²) and lots of privacy.

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Ice shelf about to break away from Antarctic coast

PARIS — A massive ice shelf anchored to the Antarctic coast by a narrow and quickly deteriorating ice bridge could break away soon, the European Space Agency warned Friday. The Paris-based agency said satellite images show the bridge that connects the Wilkins Ice Shelf to Charcot and Latady Islands “looks set to collapse.”

“The beginning of what appears to be the demise of the ice bridge began

this week when new rifts” appeared and a large block of ice broke away, it said. The Wilkins Ice Shelf — which like the rest of Antarctic’s ice sheet “was formed by thousands of years of accumulated and compacted snow” — had been stable for most of the last century before it began retreating in the 1990s, the statement said. The shelf, which was originally of Jamaica or the U.S. state of Connecticut, is located on the western

side of the Antarctic Peninsula, which thrusts up from the continent toward the southern tip of South America. Originally covering about 5,000 square miles (13,000 square kilometers), the ice shelf lost 14 percent of its mass last year alone, the statement quotes a scientist Angelika Humbert of Germany’s Munster University as saying. In two 2008 incidents, large chunks of the ice bridge fell away, shaving it down to



just 985 yards (900 meters) across at its narrowest, the statement said. As a result, “In the past months, we have observed the ice bridge deforming and its narrowest location acting as a kind of hinge,” Humbert is quoted as saying. Scientist are examining

whether global warming is behind the shelf’s breakup, the statement said. Average temperatures in the Antarctic Peninsula have risen by 3.8 degrees Fahrenheit (2.5 degrees Celsius) over the past half century, the statement said — higher than the average global rise.

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TIERRA DEL SOL - On April 25th at 12:30pm the first Bugaloe Open Golf Tournament will be a fact. Players from Aruba and around the world are already teaming up to play this the tournament that has become

notorious even before the shotgun start. This two player scramble golf tournament has the motto: Fun, Friends... and Golf! In a relaxed ambience and organized in every detail, the Bugaloe Open will welcome any golfer, no matter



what handicap one has. The tournament takes place on the Trend Jones II 18-holes golf course of Tierra del Sol. Upon start all players will receive a snack package and a delicious lunch will be served on the golf course, with of course beverages of your choice. For the best 3 teams there are great prizes to win, just as for the longest drive and closest to the pin. You can also win a pick up truck when

hitting a hole in one! Right after the golf tournament the splashing After Party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill where the players will enjoy a complimentary dinner buffet and premium bar. What a way to ease out the day... it's the Bugaloe way! By playing the Bugaloe Open you are sponsoring Animal Rights Aruba, a non - profit Animal Welfare Image Organization that aims to

protect all Fauna, Flora and Marine Life on and around the island of Aruba. A major contributor to the tournament is Heineken Aruba.

It's already possible to register for the tournament at the Pro Shop of Tierra del Sol (586 0978) or by email: oliver.riding@tierradelsol.com. Bugaloe Beach Bar is located at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

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Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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A rescuer searches for survivors amongst the rubble of collapsed buildings, in the village of Castelnovo, central Italy, Monday, April 6, 2009. A powerful earthquake in mountainous central Italy knocked down whole blocks of buildings early Monday as residents slept, killing more than 90 people in the country's deadliest quake in nearly three decades, officials said. Tens of thousands were homeless and 1,500 were injured.

Associated Press

Over 150 dead, 1,500 injured in Italy quake

MARTA FALCONI

Associated Press Writer

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP) — A powerful earthquake in mountainous central Italy knocked down whole blocks of buildings early Monday as residents slept, killing more than 150 people in the country's deadliest quake in nearly three decades. Tens of thousands were homeless and 1,500 were injured.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi, speaking by telephone with one of the TV networks of his media empire, said more than 150 people were dead and more than 1,500 people injured in the quake, which struck near the medieval town of L'Aquila, nestled in the Apennine mountains, before dawn.

The quake felled whole blocks of buildings in L'Aquila and the surrounding area early Monday as residents slept.

Ambulances screamed through L'Aquila as firefighters with dogs and a crane worked feverishly to reach people trapped in fallen buildings, including a university dormitory where a half dozen students were believed still inside.

As midnight approached, rescuers pulled a scared-looking dog with a bleeding paw out of the dormitory rubble. Relatives and friends of the missing stood wrapped in blankets or huddled under umbrellas in the rain as rescuers pulled out pieces of what seemed like an armoire, a smashed chair, photographs, wallets and diaries but none of the young people for whom they were searching.

The relatives, sobbing or grim-faced, refused to talk to reporters.

But elsewhere in L'Aquila, firefighters reported pulling

a 21-year-old woman and a 22-year-old man, both of them Italian, from what was an apartment building where many students rented flats. The building's five stories had pancaked into one slab of concrete.

Outside the half-collapsed building, part of the University of L'Aquila, tearful young people huddled together, some in their slippers, after being roused from sleep by the quake. Dozens managed to escape as the dorm walls fell around them but hours after the quake, a body of a male student was pulled from the rubble.

"We managed to come down with other students but we had to sneak through a hole in the stairs as the whole floor came down," said student Luigi Alfonsi, 22.

Continued on page 8

U.S. defense chief proposes weapons cuts

ANNE GEARAN

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON

(AP)

— Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Monday recommended halting production of the F-22 fighter jet and scrapping a new helicopter for the president as he outlined deep cuts to many of the U.S. military's biggest weapons programs.

Gates said his \$534 billion budget proposal represents a "fundamental overhaul" in defense acquisition and reflects a shift in priorities from fighting conventional wars to the newer threats U.S. forces face from insurgents in places such as Afghanistan.

The department must ensure it has the right programs and money to "fight the wars we are in today and the scenarios we are most likely to face in the years to come, while at the



Defense Secretary Robert Gates speaks at news conference with Gen. James Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at the Pentagon in Washington, Monday, April 6, 2009.

Associated Press

same time providing a hedge against other risks," Gates said as he revealed details of his budget for the next fiscal year.

Continued on next page



President Barack Obama gestures during a joint news conference with Turkey's President Abdullah Gul, not pictured, Monday, April 6, 2009, in Ankara, Turkey.

Associated Press

Obama to Muslim world: No U.S. war with Islam

JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writers

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Declaring the U.S. "is not and never will be at war with Islam," President Barack Obama worked Monday to mend frayed ties with NATO ally Turkey and improve relations with the larger Muslim world.

Obama acknowledged still-raw tensions over the Iraq war but said Muslims worldwide have little in common with terrorists such as al-Qaida and have much to gain in opposing them.

Continued on page 6

Weapons cuts

Continued from front page

The promised emphasis on budget paring is a reversal from the Bush years, which included a doubling of the Pentagon's spending since 2001.

Spending on tanks, fighter planes, ships, missiles and other weapons accounted for about a third of all defense spending last year. But Gates noted more money will be needed in areas such as personnel as the Army and Marines expand the size of their forces.

Gates will likely face stiff resistance in Congress, where lawmakers are wary of losing defense contractor jobs with an economy in crisis. Some defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin Corp. have warned of huge layoffs if programs are cut.

Production of the F-22 fighter jet, which cost \$140 million apiece, would be halted at 187. Plans to build a new helicopter for the president and

a helicopter to rescue downed pilots would be canceled. A new communications satellite would be scrapped and the program for a new Air Force transport plane would be ended.

Some of the Pentagon's most expensive programs would also be scaled back. The Army's \$160 billion Future Combat Systems modernization program would lose its armored vehicles. Plans to build a shield to defend against missile attacks by rogue states would also be scaled back.

Yet some programs would grow. Gates proposed speeding up production of the F-35 fighter jet, which could end up costing \$1 trillion to manufacture and maintain 2,443 planes. The military would buy more speedy ships that can operate close in to land. And more money would be spent outfitting special forces troops that can hunt down insurgents.

"It is important to remember that every defense dollar spent



In this April 2, 2007 file image provided by the US Air Force, two U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor aircraft flying in trail behind a KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft after inflight refueling during a training mission off the coast of Florida, are shown.

Associated Press

to over-ensure against a remote or diminishing risk — or in effect to run up the score in a capability where the United States is already dominant — is a dollar not available to take care of our people, reset the force, win the wars we are in and improve capabilities in areas where we are

underinvested and potentially vulnerable," Gates said. The Government Accountability Office reported last week that 96 of the Pentagon's biggest weapons contracts were over budget by a "staggering" figure of \$296 billion.

A bill in Congress would require the Pentagon to

do a better job of making sure proposed weapons are affordable and perform the way they should before the military spends big sums on them.

The Defense Department has already adjusted its acquisitions policy to achieve some of those goals.



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Clinton pressing UN on North Korean missile launch

DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she is pressing crucial members of the U.N. Security Council to respond to North Korea's missile launch.

Clinton said Monday that she spoke with all the foreign ministers from the four other countries that have been involved in negotiations with North Korea to end its nuclear activities. They include China and Russia, which hold veto power in the Security Council.

The other two are Japan and South Korea. Clinton called the launch "a provocative act that has grave implications." Still, the United States appears to be struggling to achieve U.N. condemnation of Sunday's launch by Pyongyang.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton extends sympathy to victims of the Italian earthquake as she and the foreign minister of Norway, Jonas Gahr Støre, hold a news conference following their meetings, Monday, April 6, 2009, at the State Department in Washington.

Associated Press

Demjanjuk's stay of deportation revoked



In this May 3, 2006 file photo, John Demjanjuk, right, is questioned by his attorney during the civil trial for claims by Jerome Brentar in Cleveland. A U.S. immigration judge in Virginia on Monday, April 6, 2009 revoked Demjanjuk's stay of deportation to Germany, clearing the way for the retired autoworker to be sent to Germany to face charges of being a Nazi death camp guard. The ruling takes effect Wednesday, unless Demjanjuk is able to successfully appeal.

Associated Press

M.R. KROPKO
Associated Press writer
CLEVELAND (AP) — A U.S. immigration judge in Virginia on Monday revoked John Demjanjuk's stay of deportation to Germany, clearing the way for the retired autoworker to be sent to Germany to face charges of being a Nazi death camp guard. The ruling takes effect Wednesday, unless Demjanjuk is able to successfully appeal. There was no immediate indication if he would try. The 89-year-old suburban Cleveland man, who came to America after World War II, is accused in a German arrest warrant of 29,000 counts of acting as an accessory to murder at a death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1943. He has denied involvement in any deaths. Authorities in Germany had

initially expected him to arrive in that country on Monday. But Demjanjuk won a reprieve Friday after arguing that his case should be reopened and that being forced to go to Germany would amount to torture because of his poor health. Judge Wayne R. Iskra, who granted the initial stay, reversed the decision Monday without a hearing. He agreed with the U.S. Justice Department's response that the matter should be handled by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which has previously upheld Demjanjuk's removal. The German Justice Ministry said it was following the U.S. court action closely. "We have, though, no influence on the process there. It's something within the American justice system," said Justice Ministry spokesman Ulrich Staudigl.

In Germany, Demjanjuk would have a chance to respond to the allegations before a judge in Munich. German prosecutors are making their case based largely on evidence used in the United States to strip Demjanjuk of his citizenship in 2002.

In 2005, an immigration judge ordered he can be deported to Germany, Poland or his native Ukraine.

In a three-page signed statement last week, Demjanjuk asked for asylum in the U.S. and said deporting him "will expose me to severe physical and mental pain that clearly amount to torture under any reasonable definition of the term."

In the statement, Demjanjuk said he is physically weak and has severe spinal, hip and leg pain. He said he suffers from a bone marrow disorder, kidney disease, anemia, kidney stones, arthritis, gout and spinal deterioration.

His attorney in Washington, John Broadley, said a government physician examined Demjanjuk on Thursday to determine his ability to travel and there was "dramatic evidence" of his back pain. Broadley submitted a portion of the exam videotape to the government on Friday as part of his argument against deportation.

But the Justice Department's response, signed by Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations, argued that Demjanjuk's "medical capacity to stand trial abroad is, or course, irrelevant in a removal proceeding."

The 15-member council did not schedule a meeting Monday on North Korea, But the five veto-holding permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — met privately with Japan for 1½ hours during the afternoon.

No agreement was reached on a response to the missile launch, and the six ambassadors agreed to consult their capitals and meet again Tuesday, probably in the afternoon.

Japan's U.N. ambassador, Yukio Takasu, said the six participants came to a broad understanding that the situation "is a very serious one, and the council requires (a) clear and strong and also quick response."

"As to what is (the) most appropriate format and content ... we have no convergence in view at this stage," Takasu said.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told CBS television Monday that the United States wants a Security Council resolution that would be binding under international law, so North Korea's leaders would understand "they can't act with impunity." Japan also wants a council resolution which would condemn the missile launch, and possibly impose further sanctions.

Diplomats said China and Russia are concerned about alienating North Korea and the possible impact on the stalled six-party talks on the

North's nuclear program. Some diplomats raised the possibility of the council approving a weaker statement read at a formal meeting, not a new resolution.

Russia's deputy ambassador Konstantin Dolgon told reporters "the information about the launch is still being verified by a number of countries including Russia." China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Yesui had no comment as he left the meeting.

Ambassador John Sawers of Britain called Monday's meeting a "useful" and "good discussion," and Rice said he spoke for her.

"I think we are all very concerned about the further threat to proliferation in the Korean peninsula," Sawers said. "We're all supportive of a productive six-party talks process, but that process has to be productive for it to be worthwhile."

Sawers said he told the other ambassadors that "whatever was on the top of the missile rocket that was fired, clearly the technology being used was directly related to ballistic missiles," which would be a violation of the council's resolution, "and there needs to be a clear council response to that."

France's U.N. Ambassador said the six countries were trying to get an agreement on a council reaction "which in our view should be as united as possible and as strong as possible."

U.S. policy on Cuba evolving under Obama

By MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will soon move to ease travel and financial restrictions on Cuba as his administration conducts a broad review of its policy toward the communist nation, a senior American official said Monday.

“We can expect some relaxation, some changes in terms of the restrictions on family remittances and family travel,” said Jeffrey Davidow, the White House adviser for the upcoming Summit of the Americas, which Obama will attend.

Davidow said Monday that the changes — which officials say would allow unlimited visits to Cuba by American families and remove caps on money transfers — are intended not only as a moral step for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have relatives in Cuba, but also to foster change there.

“Cuban-Americans are the best possible ambassadors of our system and our values,” Davidow said. He added, however, that the high hopes that some have for reforms since Fidel Castro ceded power to his brother Raul last year have not yet been realized.

Davidow and other officials say the administration is also looking seriously at calls from some lawmakers to allow all Americans to travel to Cuba, appoint a special envoy to oversee policy toward the island and possibly end U.S. opposition to Cuba’s membership in the Organization of American States.

“We are engaged in a continual evaluation of our policy and how that policy could help result in a change in Cuba that could bring about a democratic society,” Davidow said.

He said he “would not be surprised” if a presidential announcement of the changes came before the April 17-19 summit being held in Trinidad and Tobago.



Restrictions imposed by the Bush administration had limited Cuban travel by Americans to just two weeks every three years. Visits also were confined to immediate family members.

Obama signed legislation last month that temporarily eased the restrictions so Americans with relatives in Cuba could now visit once a year, stay as long as they wish and spend

up to \$179 a day.

Davidow cautioned that the president is not now contemplating lifting the decades-old U.S. embargo on the island and has not yet seen any significant improvement in Cuba’s human rights record.

“The fact remains that the situation in that country as it relates to the freedom of its own citizens does not seem

to have changed with the departure of Fidel Castro from the presidency,” Davidow said.

He declined to comment on whether Obama would go beyond taking the steps he had promised during his presidential campaign. But some officials said other incremental measures were likely.

“We’re not going to see

anything on lifting the embargo, it won’t be an abrupt sea change, but things are moving in a different direction,” said one official. Some lawmakers, backed by business and farm groups seeing new opportunities in Cuba, are advocating wider revisions in the trade and travel bans imposed after Fidel Castro took power in Havana in 1959.

In late March, a bipartisan group of senators, including Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, proposed legislation that would prevent the president from stopping travel to Cuba by all Americans except in cases of war, imminent danger to public health or threats to the physical safety of U.S. travelers.

There is an identical bill in the House and seven members of the Congressional Black Caucus are visiting Cuba this week.

U.S. wants limits on Antarctic tourism

By MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is pushing to protect Antarctica’s fragile environment by imposing mandatory limits on the size of cruise ships sailing there and the number of passengers they bring ashore.

At a conference set to begin Monday in Baltimore, U.S. diplomats will propose amending the 50-year-old Antarctic Treaty. The move would seek to mandate, under international law, the current voluntary restrictions on tourism.

A U.S. document provided to The Associated Press by the State Department says the plan would “minimize the likelihood of marine oil spills” in the Antarctic and “ensure that tourism is conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was to kick off the conference in Washington on Monday by hosting the first joint meeting of Antarctic Treaty signatories and the Arctic Council, which covers the northern polar region. More than 400 officials and observers are expected to attend from the Baltimore meeting, which runs to April 17.

The Baltimore meeting will mark the 50th anniversary of the pact’s signing. Many consider it the first modern international arms control treaty because it says Antarctica cannot be used for military purposes and freezes sovereignty claims on its territory.

The treaty says Antarctica can be used only for peaceful purposes and guarantees freedom for scientific investigations.

It sets out guidelines under which the continent can be protected. There are 28 member states and 19 observer countries and organizations to the accord.

The new U.S. proposal contains no specific enforcement mechanism or penalties for limiting tourist operations. But it would require signatories to the pact to ensure that Antarctic tour operators bar ships with more than 500 passengers from landing sites, restrict landings to one vessel at a time per site and limit passengers on shore to 100 at a time.

It would mandate a minimum of one guide for every 20 tourists while ashore, according to the documents.

Limiting tourist access to the continent has taken on urgency because of a surge in visits and recent cruise ship accidents, including two groundings in the just-finished 2008-09 season and the highly publicized sinking of a vessel in November 2007.

The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators says visits have risen from 6,700 in the 1992-93 season to 29,500 in the 2006-07 season and 45,213 in 2008-09.

Members of the association first developed the restrictions and adhere to them voluntarily. Members are backing the U.S. proposal for the mandatory limits, which were first adopted by the Antarctic Treaty parties as recommendations in 2007.

“We follow them religiously,” said the group’s executive director Steve Wellmeier. He acknowledged that without mandated limits, enforcement is “an honor system to a large extent.”

Empire State Building going green

SARA KUGLER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Empire State Building has loomed over the city for decades, and now it will stand for something new as it gets a green makeover intended to serve as an example to the world.

The \$20 million project is expected to save the building's owners \$4.4 million annually in energy costs, and will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 105,000 metric tons during the next 15 years — equal to the annual emissions of 17,500 cars.

Former President Bill Clinton and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg both attended the announcement on the Empire State Building's 80th floor Monday and said they hope the environmental changes at the iconic skyscraper will serve as a model for buildings around the world.

Clinton, whose foundation is helping with the environmental upgrades, said the only way to get property owners worldwide to make over their buildings is by setting an attention-getting example.

"We have to prove it's good economics, and we have to prove we know how to do it," he said. "Every person on Earth who cares about this knows about the Empire State Building."

Experts say retrofitting old buildings like the Empire State Building — which rises 1,453 feet (443 meters) — to be more environmentally friendly is an important step in reducing levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

In New York City, emissions generated by the operation of the more than 900,000 buildings citywide contribute 79 percent of the city's total. The upgrades planned for the Empire State Building include replacing all of the skyscraper's 6,500 windows with a type of insulated glass that reduces summer heat load and winter heat loss.

Extra insulation will be installed behind radiators to save heat. Other changes are planned for the building's ventilation, chilled water and lighting systems.

Work already has begun, with the upgrades to the building systems expected to be completed by the end of 2010 — longer than it

Clouds swirl around the Empire State Building, center, in this aerial photo Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in New York.

Associated Press

took to build the skyscraper, which opened in 1931 after a year and 45 days of work.

All of the building's green projects are expected to be

finished by the end of 2013.

Bloomberg, who has set a goal to reduce the city's carbon footprint by 30 percent by 2030, said the famous landmark shows

"the rest of the city that existing buildings, no matter how tall they are, no matter how old they are, can take steps to reduce their energy consumption."



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President Barack Obama, left, smiles during a welcome ceremony with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul, right, at the Cankaya presidential palace in Ankara, Turkey, Monday, April 6, 2009. Obama paid tribute to the memory of modern Turkey’s founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on Monday as he reached out for help to wind down the war in Iraq and bring stability to the Middle East.
Associated Press

U.S. War

Continued from front page

Reaching out, he also spoke of Muslim connections in his own background.

“We seek broader engagement based upon mutual interest and mutual respect,” Obama said in a speech to Turkey’s Parliament. It was his first visit to a predominantly Islamic nation as president, and he struck a balance between extending a hand to Muslims in general and discussing Turkey’s central role in helping to bring stability to a post-war Iraq and the wider Middle East.

“Our partnership with the Muslim world is critical, not just in rolling back the violent ideologies that people of all faiths reject but also to strengthen opportunity for all its people,” he said. He portrayed terrorist groups such as al-Qaida as extremists far removed from the vast majority of Muslims.

Turkey has NATO’s largest Army after the U.S., but relations between the two countries soured after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which the Turks opposed. Turkey barred U.S. forces from going through its country to attack Iraq. Now, however, since Obama is withdrawing troops, Turkey has become more cooperative.

Sharing parts of its southern border with Iraq, Turkey’s role in maintaining security will be pivotal after U.S. combat troops are gone, despite the Turks’ lingering problems with Kurdish militants in northern Iraq. Turkey also has important leverage with both Afghanistan and Pakistan and has served as a broker between Israel and several Arab states.

“Turkey’s greatness lies in your ability to be at the center of things. This is not where East and West divide — this is where they come together,” Obama said. He acknowledged hard feelings over Iraq. “I know that strain is shared in many places where the Muslim faith is practiced. So let me say this as clearly as I can: The United States is not and will never be at war with Islam.”

Obama’s visit was closely watched by an Islamic world that harbored deep distrust of his predecessor, George W. Bush. Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, two of the biggest Arabic satellite channels, carried his remarks live.

The president invoked his own heritage: “The United States has been enriched by Muslim Americans. Many other Americans have Muslims in their family, or have lived in a Muslim-majority country. I know, because I am one of them.”

Obama’s Kenyan father and grandfather were Muslims, and he spent time as a child in Indonesia, the country with the world’s largest Muslim population.

The president spoke for about 25 minutes from a small white-marble-and-teak rostrum in the well of a vast, airy chamber packed with Turkish lawmakers in orange leather chairs.

Except for a few instances of polite applause, the room was quiet during his speech. There was a more hearty ovation toward the end when Obama said the U.S. supports the Turkish government’s battle against the Kurdish rebel group PKK, which both nations consider a terrorist group, and again when he said America was not at war with Islam. Lawmakers also applauded when Obama said the United States supports Turkey’s bid to join the European Union.

Ankara and Istanbul were the final scheduled stops on Obama’s eight-day international tour. He began by attending the Group of 20 economic summit in London, then he celebrated NATO’s 60th anniversary in Strasbourg, France, and visited the Czech Republic for a summit of European Union leaders.

Turkey is a member of both the G-20 and NATO and is trying to get into the EU with the help of the U.S.

“Some people have asked me if I chose to continue my travels to Ankara and Istanbul to send a message,” Obama said. “My answer is simple: Evet. Yes. Turkey is a critical ally. Turkey is an important part of Europe. And Turkey and the United States must stand together — and work together — to overcome the challenges of our time.”

Obama’s strong support for Turkish membership in the EU, which he reiterated on Sunday at the meeting in Prague, has chagrined some U.S. allies, including France and Germany, which contend America has no say in the matter.

Obama acknowledged the point, but said he was speaking “as a friend” of both Europe and Turkey.

“Turkey is bound to Europe by more than bridges over the Bosphorus. Centuries of shared history, culture and commerce bring you together,” he said. “And Turkish membership would broaden and strengthen Europe’s foundation once more.”

Obama began the day paying tribute to the memory of modern Turkey’s founding father. “I’m honored to pay tribute to his name,” Obama said at wreath-laying ceremony during a morning visit to the tomb of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

In his later remarks to Parliament, Obama said Ataturk’s “greatest legacy is Turkey’s strong and secular democracy, and that is the work that this assembly carries on today.”

He also met, separately, with President Abdullah Gul and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In a news conference with Gul, Obama stood by his 2008 assertion that Ottoman Turks carried out widespread killings of Armenians early in the 20th century. But he stopped short of repeating the word “genocide” that he has used.

“Well, my views are on the record and I have not changed views,” Obama said.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks in the years leading up to and during World War I, event viewed by many scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century. Turkey denies that the deaths constituted genocide, claiming the toll has been inflated and the casualties were victims of civil war and unrest.

On the sidelines of a dinner Monday night, Obama huddled with the foreign ministers of Turkey, Armenia and Switzerland, said a senior White House official. Obama commended their efforts to bring about normalized Turkish-Armenian relations and urged them to complete the talks “with dispatch,” the official said.

In his speech to Parliament — formally the Turkish Grand National Assembly — Obama said, “History, unresolved, can be a heavy weight. Each country must work through its past. And reckoning with the past can help us seize a better future.”

“I say this as the president of a country that not too long ago made it hard for someone who looks like me to vote. But it is precisely that capacity to change that enriches our countries,” said America’s first black president.

Turkey maintains a small military force in Afghanistan, part of the NATO contingent working with U.S. troops to beat back the resurgent Taliban and deny al-Qaida a safe haven along lawless stretches of the Afghan-Pakistan border. Turkey’s participation carries enormous symbolic importance to the Muslim world. It has offered to help the U.S. train and support Afghan security forces.

In his news conference with Gul, Obama addressed the rift in U.S. and Turkish relations over Iraq. “I do not think they ever deteriorated so far that we ceased to be friends and allies. What I hope to do is build on what is already a strong foundation,” he said.



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Haiti's hurricanes caused \$1 billion in damage

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The damage wrought by last year's hurricanes and a sharp drop in remittances from Haitians working overseas as a result of the global financial crisis have seriously hurt Haiti's economy, already the poorest in the Western hemisphere, a senior U.N. official said Monday.

Hedi Annabi, the top U.N. envoy to the Caribbean nation, told the Security Council, ahead of a major donor conference next Tuesday in Washington, many Haitians will have little to eat and won't be able to send their children to school without continuing humanitarian aid.

Without international assistance to generate immediate jobs and longer-term development the country wouldn't be able to escape the poverty trap, he said.

"Sustained international engagement is critical to enable Haiti to take advantage

of a unique moment of opportunity," Annabi said. "The country now has its best chance in decades to break from the destructive cycles of the past, and to move toward a brighter future. But it can only do so with the continued, strong support of external partners."

He expressed hope that donors at the April 14 conference would provide aid for immediate projects to rebuild critically needed roads and lessen the impact of future hurricanes as well as longer-term investments to improve ports and electricity and revive the private sector, especially the garment industry.

Annabi said Haiti also needs some \$125 million to meet its \$256 million budget for the current fiscal year.

The shortfall is a result of the government releasing emergency funds last year during four storms that killed nearly 800 people.

"The scope of the damage wrought by last summer's

hurricanes is estimated at about US\$1 billion, or equivalent to about 15 percent of Haiti's GDP," Annabi said. "This has now been compounded by the global financial crisis, which in February brought a 14 percent reduction in the remittances that constitute a life-line for many Haitian families, and represent nearly three times the figure for international assistance."

Presenting the latest report by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who visited Haiti last month with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Annabi said he agreed with recent visitors who "have underlined that Haiti is at a turning point, and that this is the first time in many years when the country truly appears to be poised to make a break from a past of suffering, poverty and violence, toward a path of sustainable social and economic development."

An 8,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force has significantly improved



A man uses a grinder to sharpen a knife at La Saline market in Port-au-Prince, Sunday, April 5, 2009.
Associated Press

security over the past four years, he said, though "the country continues to face a number of threats, including a significant risk of civil unrest."

This reflects "Haiti's difficult living conditions, and the continued presence on the ground of a number of potentially violent elements, including former gang members and discontented army veterans," he said.

"These threats could be activated for political or criminal motivations, or to

inhibit reform programs that target corruption, smuggling and trafficking," Annabi warned.

Potential for unrest also looms as supporters of disqualified candidates threaten to prevent voting in an upcoming April 19 Senate election. Frustration with what some perceive as President Rene Preval's slow response to poverty and soaring living costs has also intensified since riots forced out the prime minister last spring.



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South African prosecutors drop case against Zuma

DONNA BRYSON

Associated Press Writer

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Prosecutors dropped their corruption case Monday against Jacob Zuma, clearing the way for him to become South Africa's next president but leaving behind questions that could haunt the next government.

Zuma, a colorful character and well-known champion of the poor, is the presidential candidate for the governing African National Congress in April 22 elections. He is almost certain to win given the party's dominance.

Hundreds of Zuma supporters reveled in the streets after prosecutors said they would not pursue — now or in the future — accusations that Zuma accepted bribes to thwart an investigation into wrongdoing by a French arms company involved in a massive weapons deal in the

late 1990s.

But prosecutors said the withdrawal had nothing to do with Zuma's guilt or innocence. They claimed to have a strong case, and said it was withdrawn because of prosecutorial misconduct. They noted that others could file civil cases, an option that may be pursued by opposition parties who decried Monday's announcement.

Zuma did not comment Monday, but scheduled a news conference for Tuesday in Durban, where he was to appear in court for the charges to be formally dropped.

Reactions to the decision highlighted the issues that remain as the country's fledgling democracy attempts to move forward.

Gwede Mantashe, the ANC's secretary general, called Monday's decision "a victory for the rule of law, decency and common sense," and

told reporters that Zuma should now be seen as free of suspicion.

"There are no allegations" against Zuma, Mantashe said at ANC headquarters. "They have been withdrawn this morning by the people who laid the charges."

The presidential candidate for COPE, a recently formed political party that broke away from the ANC, countered saying prosecutors should have gone forward with the case.

"We still have not heard about the merits or the demerits of the case against Mr. Zuma. The South African people want to know: Is he innocent or is he guilty?" COPE's Mvume Dandala said.

Mokotedi Mpshe, acting director of public prosecutions, said Monday that key prosecutors had abused their powers by trying to time the announcement of charges



against the 66-year-old former guerrilla leader to a key ANC conference in late 2007, presumably to undermine his bid to become party president.

Zuma won the leadership race at that conference, and two days later Mpshe said he had enough evidence to try Zuma. On Monday, Mpshe said he had been unaware in 2007 of attempts to manipulate the case.

"An intolerable abuse of process has occurred which requires discontinuation of the prosecution," Mpshe said at a packed news conference that was broadcast live nationwide.

Mpshe's decision came after Zuma's legal team brought him taped phone conversations between prosecutors discussing the timing of the announcement. It was unclear how Zuma's team obtained the recordings, but Mpshe said prosecutors determined they were authentic.

Even before Monday's decision, the accusations that Zuma had taken a \$55,600 (500,000-rand) bribe to protect a French arms company had not appeared to hurt Zuma among his base — impoverished black South Africans who embrace him as a man they believe understands their struggle.

Italy quake

Continued from front page

"I was in bed — it was like it would never end as I heard pieces of the building collapse around me."

"There was water gushing out of broken water pipes, and the corridor which led to the stairs was partially blocked when a piece of the wall came down," Alfonsi, his eyes filling with tears and his hands trembling, told The Associated Press.

Some 10,000 to 15,000 buildings were either damaged or destroyed, officials said. L'Aquila Mayor Massimo Cialente said about 100,000 people were homeless. It was not clear if the mayor's estimate included surrounding towns.

The quake also took a severe toll on the city's prized architectural heritage. L'Aquila was built as a mountain stronghold during the Middle Ages and has many Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

Damage to monuments was reported as far away as Rome, where cracks appeared at the thermal baths built in the 3rd century by the emperor

Caracalla, Culture Ministry official Giuseppe Proietti said. The damage was not serious, and other Roman monuments suffered no consequences, he said.

Parts of many of the ancient churches and castles in and around L'Aquila have collapsed. Centuries-old churches in many isolated villages in the area are believed partly collapsed, and damage to ancient monuments has been reported as far as Rome.

L'Aquila, capital of the Abruzzo region, was near the epicenter about 70 miles (110 kilometers) northeast of Rome. It is a quake-prone region that has had at least nine smaller jolts since the beginning of April. The quake struck at 3:32 a.m. The U.S. Geological Survey said the big quake was magnitude 6.3, but Italy's National Institute of Geophysics put it at 5.8. More than a dozen aftershocks followed.

Italy's national police chief Antonio Manganelli said several people had been arrested for looting. He said those picked up were "caught while they were stealing from abandoned houses. It's sad."

The quake hit 26 towns and cities around L'Aquila, which lies in a valley surrounded by the Apennine mountains. Castelnovo, a hamlet of about 300 people 15 miles (25 kilometers) southeast of L'Aquila,

appeared hard hit, and five people were confirmed dead there. Another small town, Onno, was almost leveled.

"A few houses have remained standing, but just a few," Stefania Pezzopane, provincial president of L'Aquila, told Corriere della Sera. Rescue workers in Onna, a different small town, with a population of about 250, said the town was virtually deserted as survivors sought shelter elsewhere.

The four-star, 133-room Hotel Duca degli Abruzzi in L'Aquila's historic center was heavily damaged but still standing and it was not known if there were any casualties, said Ornella De Luca of the national civil protection agency in Rome. "The information is very fragmentary," she said.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi declared a state of emergency, freeing up federal funds to deal with the disaster, and canceled a visit to Russia so he could deal with the crisis.

Condolences poured in from around the world, including from President Barack Obama, Pope Benedict XVI and Abdullah Gul, president of quake-prone Turkey.

Slabs of walls, twisted steel



supports, furniture and wire fences were strewn about the streets of L'Aquila, and gray dust carpeted sidewalks, cars and residents.

Residents and rescue workers hauled away debris from collapsed buildings by hand or in an assembly lines, passing buckets. Firefighters pulled a woman covered in dust from the debris of her four-story home. Rescue crews demanded quiet as they listened for signs of life from other people believed still trapped inside.

Elsewhere, a man dressed only in his underwear wept as he was pulled from the debris and embraced.

A body lay on the sidewalk, covered by a white sheet.

Parts of L'Aquila's main hospital were evacuated because they were at risk of collapse, and only two operating rooms were in use. Bloodied victims waited in hospital hallways or in the courtyard and many were being treated in the open. A field hospital was being set up.

In the dusty streets, as aftershocks rumbled through, residents hugged one another, prayed quietly or frantically tried to call relatives. Residents covered in dust pushed carts full of clothes and blankets that they had thrown together before fleeing their homes.

Australian library finds copy of Schindler's list

TANALEE SMITH
Associated Press Writer
SYDNEY (AP)—Australian researchers sifting papers belonging to the author of "Schindler's List" discovered a yellowing roll of 801 men saved from the Holocaust by the German industrialist — the very copy the writer used to bring the story to the world's attention, a curator said Monday.

The 13-page document is a copy of one of Oskar Schindler's famed compilations of names that eventually included 1,100 men and women he saved by employing them in his factories in World War II Germany.

"It's the list Tom used when writing 'Schindler's Ark' and that really brought Schindler's actions to the attention of the world," said State Library of New South

Wales co-curator Olwen Pryke, referring to the book's author, Thomas Keneally.

"It is a copy of a copy, but it's a moving document, regardless," said Pryke, who stumbled upon the pages late last year. "When you look at it you think of the lives that were saved."

Keneally wrote the book "Schindler's Ark," also published as "Schindler's List," which was made into the Oscar-winning film by Steven Spielberg in 1993.

He sold his research, files and notes on the book to a manuscript dealer, and the library purchased those six boxes in 1996. The curators did not realize that they contained a copy of Schindler's list.

Keneally was given the copy of the list by Leopold Pfefferberg, No. 173 on Schindler's list, in a chance

meeting in 1980, and was urged by the survivor to write about Schindler.

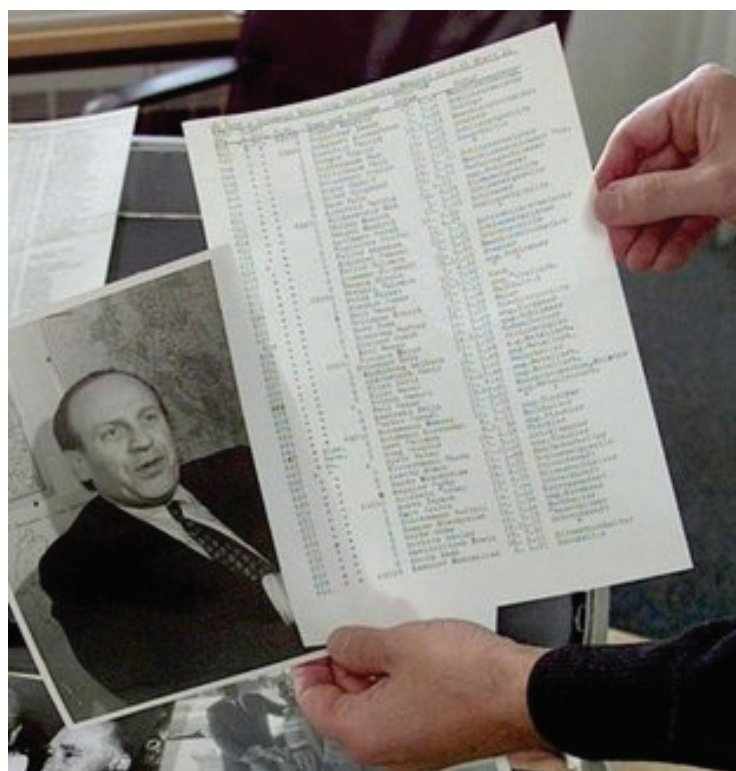
The author told the Sydney Morning Herald that he carried the list in his briefcase as he traveled the world researching the book — which won the Booker Prize in 1982 — before selling it along with all of his research.

"I'm very glad the list has ended up at the State Library," he was quoted as saying in Sunday's newspaper.

Pryke said they found the yellowing list — a copy of a carbon copy dating to 1944 or 1945 — amid German newspaper articles, photographs and Keneally's handwritten notes.

It includes the names, nationalities and skills of 801 men employed at Schindler's factory.

Pryke said several copies of



File photo shows papers from the estate of German industrialist Oskar Schindler, who saved almost Jewish forced labourers from concentration camps during Germany's Nazi era. A list of Jews saved by Schindler that inspired the novel and Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List" has been found in a Sydney library, its co-curator said.

AFP Photo by Bernd Weissbrod

the list were typed between 1944 and 1945 and carbon copies were made, as the originals would go to the German bureaucracy. The list will be on display at the library and on its Web site beginning Tuesday.



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Jordan, Robinson, Stockton among five elected to Hall

DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Air Jordan has a new name: Hall of Famer.

Michael Jordan was elected to the class of 2009 on Monday, set for induction Sept. 10-12 with his Dream Team teammates David Robinson and John Stockton. Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer are also part of a class announced in Detroit.

"I don't like being up here for the Hall of Fame because at that time your basketball career is completely over," Jordan said. "I was hoping this day would be 20 more years, or actually go in when I'm dead and gone."

Jordan's Hall of Fame selection was a slam dunk after he retired as perhaps the greatest player in history. And he gave much of the credit Monday to his college coach. "There's no way you guys would have got a chance to see Michael Jordan play without Dean Smith," he said.

His soaring dunks, TV



From left, Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer, and former NBA basketball players John Stockton, David Robinson and Michael Jordan hold jerseys Monday, April 6, 2009, in Detroit, at the announcement that they were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan is also part of the 2009 class.

Associated Press

commercial and "Air Jordan" nickname helped stamp him as one the most recognizable athletes around the world. He finished a 15-year career with the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards with 32,292 points — the third-

highest total in league history, behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone. His final career average of 30.12 goes down as the best, just ahead of Wilt Chamberlain's 30.07.

"Simply the greatest to ever play the game of basketball.

He is the one player that each young person in this league should emulate and aspire to become. His work ethic, drive, skill level and competitive spirit were unmatched," Jordan's former Bulls teammate and now team

GM, John Paxson said.

Jordan was a five-time NBA MVP and won six championships with the Bulls.

He retired twice during his career. He first came back to the Bulls in 1994 and won three more championships before retiring again in 1998, then had an ill-fated two-year stint with the Washington Wizards before calling it quits for good in 2003. He's now managing partner of the Charlotte Bobcats.

On Monday, he joked that when he saw Stockton and Robinson he was ready to put his shorts on again.

"I always want to be able to have you thinking I can always go back and play the game of basketball and put your shorts on," Jordan said. "Hall of Fame to me is like, OK, it's over and done with."

Jordan won two of his titles in the 1990s against Sloan, Stockton and the Jazz. Stockton spent his entire career with Utah and finished with 19,711 points, and holds NBA records 15,806 assists and 3,265 steals.

IBF to add women to Olympic bid

FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Baseball will be adding a women's component to its bid to get reinstated for the 2016 Olympics, after failing to unite with women's softball.

The president of the International Baseball Federation, Harvey Schiller, told The Associated Press the change will be made in the next few days.

"The main reason is the growth of the game, and obviously, we have a constituency which makes up women's baseball, and they're asking, 'What about us?'" Schiller said in a

telephone interview Monday. "We want the world to know that we have women's baseball."

The move comes a few weeks after women's softball rejected baseball's proposal for a joint baseball-softball bid. The two sports are among seven competing for two openings for new sports at the 2016 Olympics. The International Olympic Committee will vote in October on which sports to add.

Schiller estimated that between 300,000 and 500,000 women and girls play baseball worldwide, a figure which includes Little League and T-

ball.

Jim Glennie, president of the American Women's Baseball Federation, called the news "wonderful." Glennie recruits women for the U.S. National Team, which competes in the Women's World Cup of Baseball.

Glennie said he didn't know of any high schools in the U.S. that offer women's baseball, and that girls who want to play baseball beyond Little League face an uphill battle.

"It's been that way — baseball for the boys, softball for the girls," Glennie said.

Meanwhile, softball has given the Olympic committee the



option of adding men's softball to the sport. The president of the International Softball Federation, Don Porter, said Monday he was surprised by baseball's move.

"I didn't think many women were playing baseball," he

said. "That's fine, if they want to involve females. All sports should do that."

Porter said he wasn't concerned it would hurt softball's bid.

"We know we've got a strong female program," he said.

AL Roundup

Orioles beat Yankees 10-5

The Associated Press
BALTIMORE (AP) — CC Sabathia allowed six runs and failed to get through the fifth inning in his first start with New York as the Yankees lost to the Baltimore Orioles 10-5 in their season-opener on Monday.

After missing a postseason for the first time since 1993, New York spent \$423.5 million on free agents Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira during the offseason. Sabathia got a \$161 million, seven-year deal, but the left-hander hardly looked like an ace against the Orioles, who finished last in the AL East in 2008 — their 11th straight losing season.

Sabathia (0-1) gave up eight hits in 4 1-3 innings, walked

five, threw two wild pitches and did not record a strikeout for the first time since July 25, 2005, at Oakland. The six runs were the most he allowed in 32 starts since last April, when he pitched for Cleveland.

Missing injured Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees used home runs by Jorge Posada and Hideki Matsui to close to 6-5 in the seventh, but a two-run homer by light-hitting Cesar Izturis sparked a four-run eighth that blunted the comeback.

Adam Jones and Brian Roberts each had three of Baltimore's 14 hits.

Rangers 9, Indians 1

At Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock hit a three-run homer off Cliff Lee and Kevin

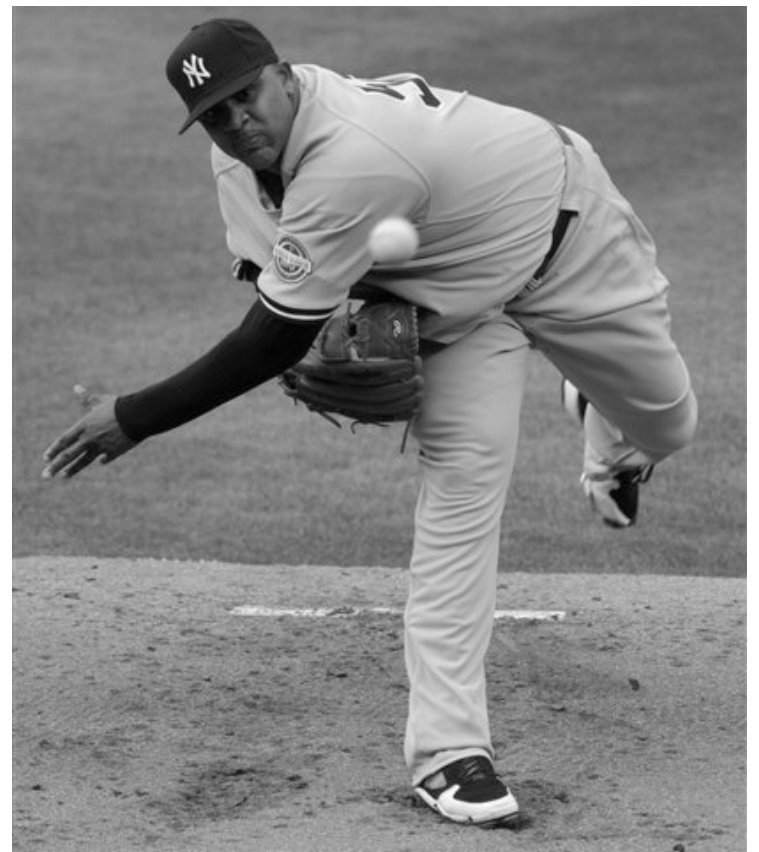
Millwood pitched seven sharp innings to lead Texas to the win.

The Rangers had 15 hits against four pitchers, including Jarrod Saltalamacchia's solo homer in the eighth. It matched the most hits for Texas in a season opener.

The Rangers jumped ahead with four runs in the second off Lee, who allowed only four earned runs in his first seven starts a year ago.

Millwood allowed one run and five hits in his fourth consecutive opening-day start for Texas.

Lee, the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner, gave up seven runs and 10 hits in five innings.



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia delivers a pitch against the Baltimore Orioles during the first inning of their opening day baseball game at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Monday, April 6, 2009.

Associated Press

Lincicome's eagle wins Kraft Nabisco Championship



Brittany Lincicome gets sprayed with beer after sinking an eagle putt on the 18th hole to win the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Associated Press

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) — Brittany Lincicome was brilliant when it mattered most.

Lincicome sank a 6-foot eagle putt on No. 18 to upstage good friend Kristy McPherson and win the Kraft Nabisco Championship on Sunday, capturing her first victory in a major.

Never worse than three strokes behind in the final round, Lincicome stayed

close as McPherson and Cristie Kerr traded the lead back and forth on a perfect day at Mission Hills.

Trailing by one, the 23-year-old Lincicome broke through with an amazing sequence of shots on the par-5 18th. After hitting a booming drive down the middle of the fairway, she launched her approach shot across the water and onto the upper part of the green, with the ball curling down just above the hole.

"Please be good," Lincicome

said as she watched the ball fly through the desert air, then smiled when it was.

She then calmly sank the putt to finish with a 3-under 69, pumped her fist and hugged McPherson, who finished tied for second with Kerr one shot back.

It was the third career victory for Lincicome, whose previous best finish in a major was a tie for second at this tournament in 2007.

Playing in the all-American final threesome, she became the first U.S. winner in the last six women's majors. Kerr was the last to do so in the 2007 U.S. Open.

After receiving her trophy, Lincicome joined hands with her caddie and father and jumped into the lake surrounding the 18th.

Lincicome, who took the first-round lead Thursday with a 66, finished with a 9-under 279. McPherson shot a 72 and Kerr a 71 on Sunday. McPherson, leading by one shot heading to No. 18, was trying to hold on for her first LPGA Tour victory when Lincicome broke through.

McPherson calls Lincicome "Bam-Bam" because of the

length of her drives, and Lincicome lived up to it on the 18th, where her drive left her just 210 to the pin.

McPherson had a seesaw day.

She lost her overnight lead to Kerr on the second hole, pulled into a tie by making three birdies in four holes spanning the turn, dropped back when Kerr birdied the par-3 14th, then jumped back into the lead on the 15th when Kerr took a double-bogey after losing her ball out of bounds, hitting it through some trees and apparently clearing a wall onto Gerald Ford Drive.

Lindsey Wright (70) was fourth at 6 under, while Suzann Pettersen (66) and Meaghan Francella (69) tied for fifth at 5 under.

Defending champion Lorena Ochoa shot a 66 for her best round of the tournament and finished in a tie for 12th at 1 under.

Lincicome opened the final round with seven straight pars before two straight birdies put her in contention. Kerr started the round one shot behind McPherson, but

had a three-shot lead after five holes despite some wayward driving.

Kerr jumped into the lead on the par-5 second hole, despite driving into the rough and failing to extricate herself with her second shot. She had a nice approach shot and sank an 18-foot birdie putt while McPherson had a bogey after her sand shot was short of the green.

Kerr saved par on No. 3 despite driving into the left rough, getting a break when her lie was in grass that had been trampled by the gallery. Kerr birdied No. 4 with a tricky 10-foot downhill putt, then took a three-stroke lead when McPherson bogeyed the par-3 fifth hole by hitting her tee shot into the water.

McPherson's ball splashed into the lake, popped out but then rolled back into the water. A rules official said it wasn't conclusive whether the ball crossed the hazard line before rolling back into the water. McPherson had to go back to the tee box rather than the drop zone, and this time hit the green and helped herself by making a 25-foot putt.



Toronto Maple Leafs head coach Ron Wilson, center, reacts as his team trails 7-4 during second-period NHL hockey game action against the Boston Bruins in Toronto on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Associated Press

Maple Leafs' Ron Wilson named U.S. Olympic coach

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Wilson was chosen Monday to lead the U.S. men's ice hockey team at the 2010 Vancouver Games, the second time the Toronto Maple Leafs coach has been given the Olympic job. Wilson, a USA Hockey fixture as a player and coach for over 30 years, guided the Americans to the quarterfinals at the 1998 Nagano Games. He will also serve as the coach of the American team later this month at the world hockey championship in Switzerland.

His greatest accomplishment on the international stage came when he coached the U.S. to the gold medal at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey.

Some players who starred on that club, such as Mike Modano, Bill Guerin, and Keith Tkachuk, are still active in the NHL and will merit consideration when the Olympic roster is formed, but general manager Brian Burke made it clear that next year's club will be much younger.

Get used to names like Anaheim rookie Bobby Ryan and New York Islanders counterpart Kyle Okposo.

"We're going to have a young team, we're going to have an aggressive team. We want to play an attacking style," Wilson said during a conference call. "That's what I've tried to kind of incorporate here in Toronto with a very young team and an inexperienced team. We've had a little bit of success playing that way and I'd like to continue that."

Canada, along with Russia and Sweden and Finland — the opponents in the 2006 gold medal game — will be considered favorites. Canada will have the biggest advantage by playing at home.

"We intend to field a competitive team. We're going there to win. I've made no bones about that," Burke said. "We understand the odds. We understand that we'll probably be the youngest team in the field. We understand that there won't be a whole lot of people pulling for us in that marketplace and there won't be a lot of people that think we can do this, but we think we can."

Wilson got the job over New York Rangers coach John Tortorella and former Carolina coach Peter Laviolette, who was behind the bench at the 2006 Turin Olympics when the United States was again eliminated in the quarterfinals.

The decision was made by a committee headed by Burke, the Maple Leafs general manager who holds the same position for the U.S. Olympic team as well as the upcoming world championship. The committee also consisted of Philadelphia Flyers GM Paul Holmgren, Ray Shero of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Nashville's David Poile, and Atlanta Thrashers GM Don Waddell, who put together the Olympic team in 2006.

Wilson became the logical choice because he and Burke were also teammates at Providence College under coach Lou Lamoriello, the longtime GM of the New Jersey Devils. Wilson became available to coach at the world championships because the Maple Leafs didn't qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

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Fidel Castro dice que Cuba no tiene miedo de hablar con EEUU

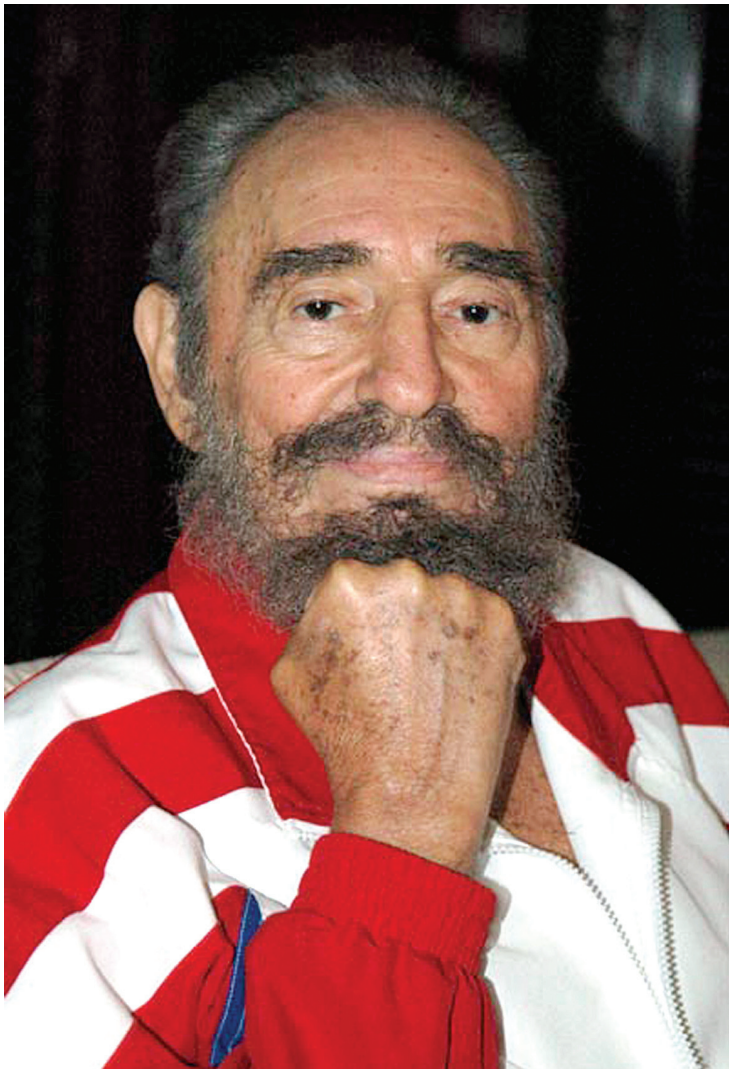


Foto de archivo del ex presidente cubano Fidel Castro

LA HABANA (Reuters) - El ex líder cubano Fidel Castro dijo el domingo que su país no teme el diálogo con Estados Unidos, y alabó al senador estadounidense

Richard Lugar por convocar a una nueva política de interacción entre Washington y La Habana. Castro, en una columna publicada en internet, dijo

que Lugar "camina con los pies sobre la tierra" y no teme ser llamado "blando o prosocialista", y sostuvo que "las medidas de Estados Unidos contra Cuba, a lo largo de casi medio siglo constituyen un fracaso total".

"No es necesario enfatizar lo que siempre Cuba ha dicho: no tememos dialogar con Estados Unidos. No necesitamos tampoco la confrontación para existir, como piensan algunos tontos", escribió Castro, de 82 años, quien renunció el año pasado como presidente pero aún mantiene su influencia en la isla que gobernó por 49 años.

El diálogo, expresó Castro, "es la única forma de procurar la amistad y la paz entre los pueblos". Lugar, el republicano de mayor rango en la comisión de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado de su país, instó la semana pasada al presidente Barack Obama a "reconsiderar una política que no sólo no ha promovido los derechos humanos y la democracia, sino que también socava nuestros intereses políticos y

de seguridad".

El senador republicano llamó a crear la posición de enviado especial para comenzar conversaciones directas con Cuba sobre temas de interés común. La columna de Castro se da a conocer en medio de señales de que podría haber un posible cambio en los lazos entre Cuba y Estados Unidos, que están sólo a 145 kilómetros de distancia uno del otro pero no tienen relaciones diplomáticas oficiales.

Una delegación de legisladores estadounidenses se encuentra actualmente en Cuba discutiendo con funcionarios locales sobre vías para mejorar las relaciones entre ambos países.

Los congresistas arribaron mientras el Senado y la Cámara de Representantes de su país se preparan para considerar proyectos de

ley que permitirían que los estadounidenses viajen a Cuba, lo que en gran parte ha estado vedado por un embargo comercial impuesto por Washington a la isla desde 1962.

De acuerdo a reportes de prensa, Obama pronto cumpliría su promesa de campaña para remover los límites a los viajes de familiares y el envío de remesas entre Estados Unidos y Cuba.

El mandatario demócrata tiene fijado viajar a la Cumbre de las Américas, que comenzará el 17 de abril en Trinidad y Tobago. Aunque Obama no ha llegado a pedir el final de embargo, tanto él como el presidente cubano, Raúl Castro -quien reemplazó el año pasado a su hermano Fidel- han dado indicios de su voluntad para mantener conversaciones.

Chile:

Ex presidente Frei, candidato presidencial oficialista

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - El senador y ex presidente Eduardo Frei se convirtió el domingo en el candidato presidencial de la coalición gobernante para la elección de diciembre al imponerse en una elección primaria a su rival socialdemócrata José Antonio Gómez.

La primaria se efectuó en sólo dos de las 15 regiones del país, con el compromiso entre los candidatos de que si se registraba una diferencia de más de 20% de los votos

entre ellos, el ganador sería el candidato único de la coalición oficialista Concertación por la Democracia. Frei recibió

64,6% frente a 35,9 de Gómez, quien rápidamente reconoció la derrota y proclamó a su contricante como ganador.



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